



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3220

February 18, 2005

Denise M. Sheehan, Acting Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4500

Dear Ms. Sheehan,

We are writing to urge you to approve International Paper's Title 5 Air Permit application which was filed with your office January 31, 2005. This application would allow IP's Ticonderoga mill to conduct a two week test of Tire Derived Fuel (TDF) in the mill's power boiler. TDF would make up 10 percent of the fuel used, displacing a portion of the fuel oil currently utilized.

It is estimated that the plant would save approximately \$1.5 million annually in energy costs at a facility where high energy costs place them at a competitive disadvantage in a fierce global economy where subsidized exports give IP's foreign competitors a leg up.

We are strongly committed to doing all we can to ensure that IP's Ticonderoga mill continues to thrive and that they continue to provide hundreds of good paying jobs in Ticonderoga and the surrounding communities for generations to come.

International Paper's presence in Ticonderoga dates back to 1925. The IP Ticonderoga mill has a long and proud history and they currently employ more than 700 workers making them one of the North Country's biggest employers, and one of the most important factors in the North Country economy.

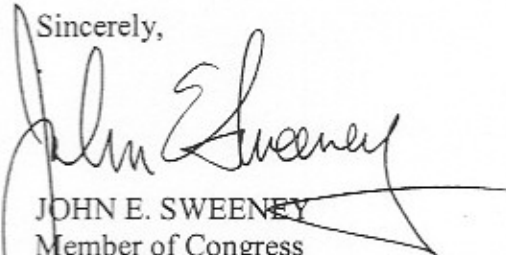
The mill's proposed TDF plan has the potential of providing a viable alternative to a portion of its fuel needs, while at the same time providing a comparatively safe disposal alternative for a portion of the alarming number of old tires.

There are millions of used tires accumulating exponentially in every state posing a serious health and safety threat. This is a growing hazard. The need to find beneficial use of this material is in the immediate best interest of the public.

Recognizing the concern of some that air quality might be compromised, we are assured that the TDF trial would be conducted within all of the mill's current permit limitations and that air quality would not be compromised. The mill's power boiler is equipped with pollution control equipment; monitored by continuous emissions control systems; and operated by skilled employees. It is important the trial move forward and that data is collected so everyone can see and evaluate the merits of this project.

International Paper has a good proposal that looks to balance the needs of the economy and the environment. We sincerely believe that the two week test is merited.

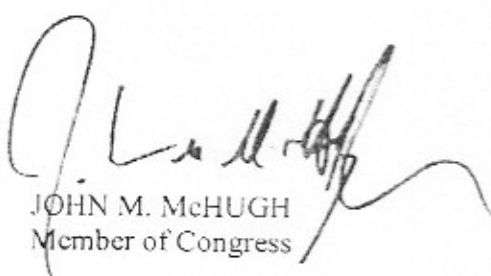
Sincerely,



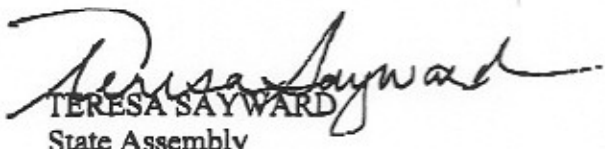
JOHN E. SWEENEY
Member of Congress



BETTY LITTLE
State Senate



JOHN M. McHUGH
Member of Congress



TERESA SAYWARD
State Assembly